

Remarks

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

IBM Technical Disclosure

For ready reference, applicant replicates the contents of Examiner-cited IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin, Vol. 36, No. 8, August 1993.

[start of IBM TDB]

A direct manipulation technique is provided to allow users to change the order in which functions appear on a tool bar to most efficiently meet their needs, and to add or remove functions to or from the tool bar.

- Users can change the order in which functions appear on the tool bar by 'dragging and dropping' the icons representing the functions to a new location on the bar.
- Users can remove functions they do not commonly use from the tool bar with the mouse by using a pre-defined delete sequence. This will remove the function from the tool bar ONLY. Every other occurrence of the function (menu bar, pop-up...) will remain.
- Users can add functions to the tool bar by selecting and dragging the icon or menu bar item representing that function to the tool bar in the location designated by the user.

This will allow users to customize tool bars to best fit their needs, provide more efficient use of applications, and save users time.

[end of IBM TDB]

This IBM TDB concerns editing the tools that appear on a toolbar using drag-and-drop user manipulation. Close reading reveals that the following topics are not mentioned above, and are hence unanticipated by this prior art: wrapping a toolbar; any mention of tool groups, specifically: 1) manipulating tool groups; 2) directly altering the length of a tool group without editing or altering the length of the toolbar on which the tool group resides; 3) merging groups of tools or toolbars; automatically rearranging tools within a group or a tool group within a

toolbar. Applicant respectfully suggests that Examiner read more anticipatory content into this IBM TDB than warranted. Rejection of original or amended claims 4-5, 7-8, 10-11, 13, and 15-18 based upon this prior art is respectfully traversed.

Other prior art

Other prior art of record is summarized below, none of which is anticipatory to the above claims.

6,133,915 (Arcuri)

6,133,915 concerns displaying a "quick customize" menu that allows addition or deletion of tools on a toolbar by checking or unchecking listed tools.

6,417,873 (Fletcher)

6,417,873 grapples with hyperlinked web page display on PDAs (handheld computers), suggesting in part using a hierarchical tree view control to view web page links so as to include content of interest.

6,085,184 (Bertrand)

6,085,184 discloses a tutorial system using artificial intelligence that, among other things, configures a dynamic toolbar.

6,072,486 (Sheldon)

6,072,486 describes populating a deskbar with toolbars or tools.

6,057,844 (Strauss)

6,057,844 employs a drag toolbar for drag-and-drop operations.

6,057,836 (Kavalam)

6,057,836 discloses resizing a composite toolbar, including direct manipulation to collapse or expand a toolbar.

6,057,836 does not anticipate manipulation of tool groups as disclosed and claimed in 09/707,194, nor suggest the 09/707,194-claimed toolbar manipulations, such as wrapping or

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merging toolbars. 6,057,836 was cited by applicant, the disclosed substance of 6,057,836 was incorporated into software used by applicant prior to filing 09/707,194, and so was well-known to applicant. Applicant has been mindful that claims as filed are not anticipated by 6,057,836. 09/707,194 extends beyond functionality disclosed in 6,057,836.

5,644,739 (Moursund)

5,644,739, priority date 01/27/1995, claims drag-and-drop tool operations into toolbars anticipated by the above-cited 1993 IBM TDB.

None of the art cited to date anticipates claims as presently filed. Allowance of above claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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